**Top 50 Linux Commands Every User Should Know**

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced Linux user, mastering these essential commands will help you navigate and manage your system efficiently.

**File and Directory Management**

1. **ls** – Lists files and directories.
2. **pwd** – Prints the current working directory.
3. **cd** – Changes directories.
4. **mkdir** – Creates new directories.
5. **mv** – Moves or renames files and directories.
6. **cp** – Copies files and directories.
7. **rm** – Deletes files or directories.
8. **touch** – Creates empty files.
9. **ln** – Creates symbolic links (shortcuts) to files.
10. **clear** – Clears the terminal screen.

**File Viewing and Manipulation**

1. **cat** – Displays the contents of a file.
2. **echo** – Prints text or variables to the terminal.
3. **less** – Displays file contents one page at a time.
4. **man** – Shows manual pages for commands.
5. **head** – Displays the first few lines of a file.
6. **tail** – Displays the last few lines of a file.
7. **grep** – Searches for a string within a file or output.
8. **diff** – Compares differences between two files.
9. **cmp** – Checks if two files are identical.
10. **comm** – Finds common and unique lines between two files.
11. **sort** – Sorts the contents of a file.

**File Compression and Archiving**

1. **tar** – Archives and extracts files.
2. **zip** – Compresses files into a .zip archive.
3. **unzip** – Extracts files from a .zip archive.

**User and System Information**

1. **uname** – Displays system information.
2. **whoami** – Shows the currently logged-in user.
3. **passwd** – Creates or updates a user’s password.
4. **useradd / usermod** – Adds or modifies user accounts.

**Process and Service Management**

1. **ps** – Displays active processes.
2. **top** – Shows running processes and system usage in real-time.
3. **kill** / **killall** – Terminates a process by its ID or name.
4. **service** – Starts, stops, or restarts services.

**Disk and File System Management**

1. **df** – Shows disk space usage.
2. **mount** – Mounts a file system.

**Permissions and Ownership**

1. **chmod** – Changes file permissions.
2. **chown** – Modifies file or folder ownership.

**Networking and Internet**

1. **ifconfig** – Displays network interface and IP information.
2. **traceroute** – Traces the network path to a destination.
3. **wget** – Downloads files from the internet.
4. **ssh** – Connects to a remote system securely.

**Security and Firewall**

1. **ufw** – Manages the Uncomplicated Firewall.
2. **iptables** – Configures packet filtering rules.

**Package Management**

1. **apt**, **pacman**, **yum**, **rpm** – Package managers for different Linux distributions.

**System Utilities and Customization**

1. **sudo** – Runs commands with elevated privileges.
2. **cal** – Displays a command-line calendar.
3. **alias** – Creates shortcuts for frequently used commands.
4. **dd** – Creates bootable USB drives and copies disk data.
5. **whereis** – Locates the binary, source, and manual pages of a command.
6. **whatis** – Provides a brief description of a command.

**Bonus Command**

1. **export** – Sets and exports environment variables.